



News Release

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Yakima Optometrist's license restricted on unprofessional conduct charges

OLYMPIA – An investigation into charges of unprofessional conduct has resulted in immediate restrictions on the license of a Yakima optometrist.

The Board of Optometry and the Washington State Department of Health have immediately imposed restrictions on the credential of Yakima optometrist Gary J. Martinkus (OD.00000922). Martinkus cannot prescribe therapeutic topical and oral medications in Washington until the charges are resolved. He has 20 days to respond to the Amended Statement of Charges.

The charges say that Martinkus is having staff and patients buy money orders for him to send overseas in response to foreign lottery scams. Martinkus reportedly harassed and verbally abused a patient. His staff report that Martinkus prescribed lenses in error, neglected patients, neglected patients during exams, and pulled a patient out of an exam to buy and send money orders for Martinkus.

The legal documents in this case are available by calling 360-236-4700 or on the Department of Health's "[Provider Credential Search](#)" (www.doh.wa.gov). Anyone who believes a health care provider acted unprofessionally is encouraged to call that number to report their complaint.

The Board of Optometry regulates optometrists in Washington. The program establishes, monitors, and enforces qualifications for licensing, consistent standards of practice, continuing competency mechanisms, and discipline. Rules, policies and procedures promote the delivery of quality health care to state residents.

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Visit the Washington Department of Health website at <http://www.doh.wa.gov> for a healthy dose of information.